Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, In 1991, Ken Melius was hired to be the Executive Director of the South Dakota State Employees Organization (SDSEO); and,

Whereas, Ken began his duties as director to help protect salaries, health insurance, retirement and other issues pertaining to state employees; and,

Whereas, Ken provided a conscientious and watchful eye as lobbyist and advocate for state employees for over 13 years; and,

Whereas, Ken always carried a well-respected, professional appearance before the governor and the legislature during his tenure; and,

Whereas, Ken proved himself a reliable source of information on state employee issues for governors, lawmakers, rule-makers, and the general public; and,

Whereas, Ken lobbied against many bills and rules which would have proven harmful to state employees; and,

Whereas, Ken successfully lobbied to pass many rules and laws to benefit state employees; and,

Whereas, Ken was largely responsible for making the SDSEO Investment Trust a reality, allowing state employees to create personal investment accounts by payroll deduction; and,

Whereas, Ken was able to recruit the current governor as a member of the SDSEO – the first governor to join; and,

Whereas, Ken decided to move on to another adventure in his career, and the leadership and membership of SDSEO will miss his positive advocacy and professional representation:

***Now, Therefore*, I, M. Michael Rounds**, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2005, as

KEN MELIUS DAY

in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State